

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 FEAE-00  
ERDA-05 CEQ-01 EPA-01 OMB-01 SY-05 /112 W  
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R 011733Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6465  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, ENRG, FR  
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE MARKS ANTI-NUCLEAR RALLY

REF: PARIS 22025

BEGIN SUMMARY: SOME 20-30,000 ANTI-NUCLEAR DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED JULY 31 AGAINST THE SUPER-PHENIX (FAST BREEDER), CONSTRUCTION SITE NEAR CREYS-MALVILLE IN THE RHONE VALLEY, LEADING TO SOME SIX HOURS OF VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH RIOT POLICE AND LEAVING ONE DEAD (HEART ATTACK) AND OVER 100 INJURED. ORGANIZED BY THE ECOLOGIST MOVEMENT AND SUPPORTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS FROM GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, AND BELGIUM, THE MARCH FAILED TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF EITHER THE SOCIALIST OR COMMUNIST PARTIES OR OF THE MAJOR TRADE UNIONS (CGT, CFDT, FEN), ALL OF WHOM FAVOR A MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO NUCLEAR POWER IN CONTRAST TO THE EXISTING POLICY CHARACTERIZED AS "TOUT-NUCLEAIRE" (ALL NUCLEAR), BUT DO

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NOT OPPOSE NUCLEAR ENERGY IN PARTICIPLE. END SUMMARY.

1. VIOLENCE AT CREYS-MALVILLE: THE CONTINUING DEBATE ON THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR POWER REACHED A NEW HIGH WATER MARK JULY 31 AS ANTI-NUCLEAR DEMONSTRATORS CLASHED WITH POLICE NEAR THE CREYS-MALVILLE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE PROTOTYPE SUPER-PHENIX FAST BREEDER REACTOR.

THE GROUNDWORK FOR CONFRONTATION WAS LAID ON JULY 28 WHEN PREFET OF THE ISERE RENE JANNIN ANNOUNCED THAT NO ONE WOULD BE ALLOWED WITHIN FIVE KILOMETERS OF THE SITE; THE SITUATION WAS APPARENTLY AGGRAVATED BY THE PARTICIPATION OF MILITANT WEST GERMAN ENVIRONMENTALISTS, WHOSE PRESENCE LED PREFET JANNIN TO ESCALATE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BY DECLARING THAT "FRANCE IS OCCUPIED FOR THE SECOND TIME BY THE GERMANS." ALTHOUGH THE MARCH ORGANIZERS WERE PLEDGED TO NON-VIOLENCE, A MINORITY OF MORE MILITANT PARTICIPANTS SPARKED SOME SIX HOURS OF VIOLENCE WHICH SAW NUMEROUS EXCHANGES OF TEAR GAS AND MOLOTOV COCKTAILS.

2. AN ELECTORAL DILEMMA: THE MARCH WAS LARGELY THE PRODUCT OF ECOLOGY MOVEMENT, SUPPORTED IN ADDITION BY THE FRINGE PARTIES OF THE FAR LEFT. THE SOCIALISTS (PS) AND COMMUNISTS(PCF) BOTH REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE AS DID THE MAJOR TRADE UNIONS (CGT, CFDT, FEN), ALTHOUGH THE PS ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN THE NEARBY VILLAGE OF COURTENAY TO EXPLAIN ITS POSITION AS DID THE CFDT (MUCH LESS CONSPICUOUSLY) IN MORESTEL. FOR THE PS IN PARTICULAR, THE DECISION WAS DIFFICULT, GIVEN THE GENERAL ASSUMPTION THAT THE SOCIALISTS LOSE MORE VOTES TO THE ECOLOGISTS THAN ANY OTHER PARTY AND HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY COURTING THIS ELECTORATE SINCE THE MARCH 1977 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. IN GENERAL, NEITHER THE LEFT PARTIES NOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE UNIONS ARE OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR POWER IN PRINCIPLE, ALTHOUGH THE CFDT FAVORS A THREE-YEAR MORATORIUM, PREFERRING TO MAINTAIN ALL ENERGY OPTIONS POSSIBLE; THEY DIFFER WITH CURRENT GOVERNMENT POLICY IN ARGUING FOR MORE RESTRAINT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND MORE EMPHASIS ON OTHER POSSIBILITIES SUCH AS SOLAR ENERGY--IN SHORT, FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN WHAT THEY CHARACTERIZE AS GISCARD'S "NUCLEAR ALL AZIMUTHS" POLICY.

3. THE PS AND NUCLEAR POWER: THE SOCIALIST PARTY IS MAKING A SERIOUS EFFORT TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE PRAGMATISM REQUIRED OF A PARTY FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF SOMEDAY GOVERNING AN ENERGY-POOR NATION AND THE ECOLOGICAL PURITY REQUIRED TO APPEASE AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ELECTORAL BLOC. IN THAT VEIN, THE PS:  
--DECLARES IN FAVOR OF STOPPING WORK IMMEDIATELY ON THE FAST BREEDER, BUT ONLY SO THAT FURTHER STUDIES ON DANGERS AND SAFEGUARDS CAN BE CONDUCTED;  
--CALLS FOR A NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON NUCLEAR ENERGY, BUT ADDS THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SIMPLY REJECT SUCH ENERGY--VIAABLE ALTERNATIVES MUST BE PROPOSED AT THE SAME TIME.

IN THE CASE OF CREYS-MALVILLE, THE PS REFUSED ITS SUP-  
PORT OUT OF FEAR OF BEING ASSOCIATED WITH A POTENTIALLY

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VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, ON THE  
BASIS OF PRINCIPLE. NATIONAL SECRETARY, LOUIS MERMAZ,  
STOOD FACE TO FACE WITH ECOLOGISTS AT COURTENAY,  
ARGUING THAT THEY MUST PROPOSE SOMETHING TO REPLACE  
NUCLEAR POWER. THE ECOLOGISTS' ANSWER--THE CANDLE--IS  
A MEASURE OF THE DISPARITY OF POSITIONS.

4. THE PCF AND OTHERS: THE PCF (AND THE CLOSELY  
ASSOCIATED CGT HAVE TAKEN A POSITION SIMILAR TO THAT OF  
THE PS, BUT WITHOUT THE ASSOCIATED EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH  
A DIALOGUE WITH THE ECOLOGISTS. WHILE CRITICIZING THE  
LACK OF PUBLIC DEBATE AND ACCUSING THE GOVERNMENT OF  
SACRIFICING THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO THE PROFITS OF GRAND  
CAPITAL ("BARON WESTINGHOUSE"), THE COMMUNIST ARGUE  
THAT NO FORM OF ENERGY CAN BE REJECTED A PRIORI, INCLUD-  
ING THE ATOM. THE CGT ADDS THAT THE FRENCH STANDARD  
OF LIVING CANNOT BE RAISED WITHOUT AN INCREASE IN ENERGY  
CONSUMPTION AND THAT THE COUNTRY IS ALREADY THREATENED  
BY AN ENERGY SHORTAGE NEXT WINTER. IN BRIEF, FOR THE  
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PCF AND CGT THE EMPHASIS IS STRICTLY ON PRODUCTIVITY, WITH SUITABLE BUT ARTIFICIAL DEFERENCE TO CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY OF THE POPULATION. THE CFDT'S MORATORIUM POSITION IS BASED ON A BELIEF THAT CURRENT NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IS BASICALLY UNSAFE AND THAT WHILE NUCLEAR POWER MAY ULTIMATELY PROVE VIABLE, ONE SHOULD PROCEED SLOWLY IN THE FACE OF DANGEROUS UNCERTAINTIES.

5. COMMENT: POLITICALLY, THE MAJORITY PARTIES ARE HARD PUT TO POLL ANY ELECTORAL CHIPS OUT OF THE FIRE: FIRST, BECUASE THE VIOLENCE, AS USUAL, IS LAID MORE AT THE FEET OF THE COMPAGNIE REPUBLICAINE DE SECURITE (CRS-NATIONAL GUARD) THAN THE DEMONSTRATORS THEMSELVES; AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE THE OPPOSITION TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF DISTANCING ITSELF FROM THE AFFAIR WELL IN ADVANCE, WHEN MOST OBSERVERS WERE ALREADY PREDICTING TROUBLE. AS FOR NUCLEAR POLICY, THE POLITICAL PARTIES OF BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT REMAIN IN BASIC AGREEMENT ON THE DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUING A NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM. THE LEFT, FOR MAINLY POLITICAL PURPOSES, CHALLENGES THE SPEED AND EXTENT OF THE CURRENT EFFORT AND THE LACK OF DEMOCRATIC CONSULTATION. BUT APART FROM THESE TACTICAL DECISIONS TO MARK THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH THE EXISTING PROGRAM, THE PS PCF REMAIN COMMITTED TO NUCLEAR POWER AS FRANCE'S GREATEST HOPE FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE IN AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE. THE ECOLOGISTS SHOULD NOT NOW BE UNDER ANY ILLUSION THAT ANY OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, PS INCLUDED, CAN BE COAXED ANY FURTHER ONTO THE ANTI-NUCLEAR BANDWAGON.  
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## Message Attributes

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